



## Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention

**Date: December 14, 2022**

**Time: 9:00am-10:00am**

**Location: Room 1A in Legislative Office Building and [Zoom](#)**

- I. Commissioner Juthani convene meeting
  - a. Welcome commission members to the final meeting of 2022
- II. Memoriam for Victims of Gun Violence
  - a. Took a few moments to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of Sandy Hook.
  - b. Sandy Hook was a jolt to our fibers in many ways, but there are so many communities that deal with violence right in Connecticut every single day.
  - c. Also acknowledge the individuals impacted by community gun violence before Sandy Hook and After Sandy Hook.
  - d. Survivor impact statement from Commission member Janet Rice.
  - e. Opened the floor for anyone else to share any personal reflection on this day.
    - i. Senator Moore shared some thoughts.
- III. Approve Meeting Minutes
  - a. Motion to approved minutes by Jeremy Stein and seconded by Pina Violana. Approved by the Commission.
- IV. Public Comment
  - a. Rev. A.J. Johnson Greater Hartford Interface Action Alliance.
  - b. Joanna Schobert director of CT HVIP collaborative.
  - c. Commissioners follow up comments. We talk about structural racism as a public health problem and community gun violence as a public health problem. We have a combined collective energy towards addressing these topics through this work. When we look at gun violence across the country, we see that young black men are victims of homicide, but white men are the victims of Suicide. Raised this point to show this is an all of us problem. Gun violence effects every community and demographic in our state. Our prevention and intervention strategies will impact everybody.
- V. Presentation by Subcommittees on Draft Commission Report to the General Assembly-
  - a. **RFP Grant Criteria and Award Subcommittee**- Colleen Violette, one of the co-chairs, gave the update. RFP is not public, so our report is a little more conservative until that is released. Provided overview of identified short- and long-term objectives. Did not have any other recommendations identified. There will be a closed-door opportunity to review and provide comments of the RFP for those who will not be applying for the RFP.

Dr. Kerri Raissian suggested including evaluation in our short-term objectives. Providing technical assistance on evaluation before and after the award granted. How can we also provide technical assistance to those smaller organization who do not have the capacity to properly apply for this funding? Empowering CBO to provide technical assistance to each other. Organization out there who are already willing to help, and we can help connect them together. Partnership, Program, Stakeholders and community engagement can also address this and add as an objective in their report.

- b. **Sustainability – Financial and Legislative-** Co-Chairs Carl Schiessl, Esq., Jeremy Stein, Esq. provided report out. The subcommittee is charged with sustaining funding after the ARPA funding, so the organization who are funding through the RFP can continue to receive funding from this Commission. Identified short- and long-term objective. Plan to work with all the subcommittees to ensure we are coordinated. Making sure this is a priority for all legislators so we can fund and sustain this work. Being able to justify to the legislator our recommendation of the 20 million dollars. This subcommittee did not place a number on the request or funds because they did not want to limit but see a need to have a specific ask for funding. Confident and hopeful congress will pass “break the cycle of violence act”. In the report they also provided an updated from Dr. Bradley Richards invited OTG fellow Katie Berdy to give a summary of the development of the Medicaid cover benefit for the services of violence prevention professionals. This will be important for sustainability and make CT the first in the nation for passing such reimbursements.
- c. **Data Evaluation and Analysis of Grant-funded-** Dr. Kerri Raissian provided report out, reviewed charges. Highlighted the main source of data is the CTVRDS, in place since 2015. This shows the burden of gun death in our state. The subcommittee has thought about other data for injury. Reviewed short- and long-term objectives. Jeremy Stein asked, how can we coordinate data collection efforts with other organizations such as project longevity. Not directly now, we would love to that, but different data owners may not want to share their data like a state agency would. Commissioner recognized the importance of utilizing some of our funds for administration to best support data collection. Suggested again the importance of bringing evaluation in earlier in the RFP process.
- d. **Programs Partnerships, Programs, Stakeholder, and Community Engagement-** Andrew Woods reported out. Reviewed twelve testimonies and Chief Jackobsen conducted two public comment session in New Haven. GHIAA also facilitated a convening that took place a few weeks ago. Many nontraditional programs were reviewed. Reviewed their summary of recommendation. Main recommendation to allocate more funding to this work. Partner with the commission on racial equity. Consider incorporating the advisory committee recommendation that were included in the report that was submitted only last year. We do not need to keep reinventing the wheel or brushing past the expertise and voices we have right in front of us.
- e. **Discussion-** We heard two slightly different perspective on the ask for additional funding. We heard 20 million from Mr. Woods group and from Mr. Stein’s group that they did not want to cap a number. In the report we need to decide if we will include a

number ask for the legislator and what the justification is for this number to support the ask.

VI. Approval of Draft Report-

- a. Motion for pulmonary approval of the report pending final approval via email- approved by Pina Violana and second by James Doddington.
- b. Thanking commission members, especially subcommittee chairs, for their work on drafting the report.
- c. Final Report Next Steps: Comments from today's meeting will be incorporated into the report, overarching summary and recommendations will be included in the executive summary of the larger report. Draft of the entire report will be circulated to the commission Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup>, Comments from commission members due December 28<sup>th</sup>, Final report will be submitted Friday December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Commission Next Steps: Subject matter experts will be brought in starting with our January Meeting. Also discuss our plans for the upcoming year. Subcommittees will continue to meet monthly and focus on their outlined objectives.

VII. Next meeting is Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9 am-11 am.

Minutes drafted by Colleen Violette (CTDPH); 12/22/22